

# Bicyclist, Pedestrian Deaths Continue to Rise

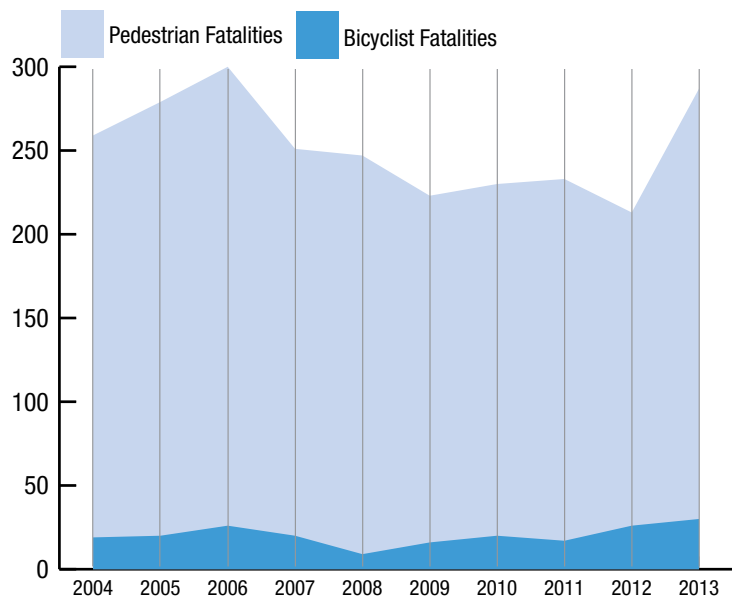
## Highway Fatality Rate Holds Steady

Caltrans has a goal to annually reduce, by 10 percent, pedestrian and bicyclist deaths on the state's highway system. While overall highway deaths have not increased, bicyclist and pedestrian deaths have.

In 2012, across the state, 26 bicyclists and 187 pedestrians were killed on the state highway system. In 2013, bicyclist deaths increased to 30 for the year, while pedestrian deaths jumped to 257. Safety is Caltrans' No. 1 goal, and the department is concerned about the recent increase in deaths for these travelers. Caltrans and its partners are engaged in ongoing research to identify the reasons for this increase and solutions that they can implement.

Caltrans is working toward zero highway deaths and has a current goal of less than 0.5 highway fatalities for every 100 million vehicle miles traveled on the state highway system. In 2012, highway fatalities were 0.67 and remained the same in 2013, the most recent year data is available.

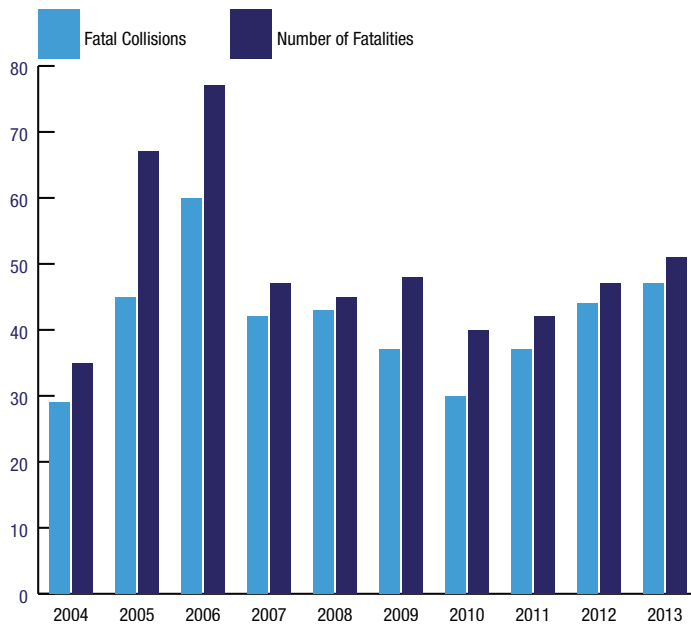
### Bike and Pedestrian Highway Fatalities



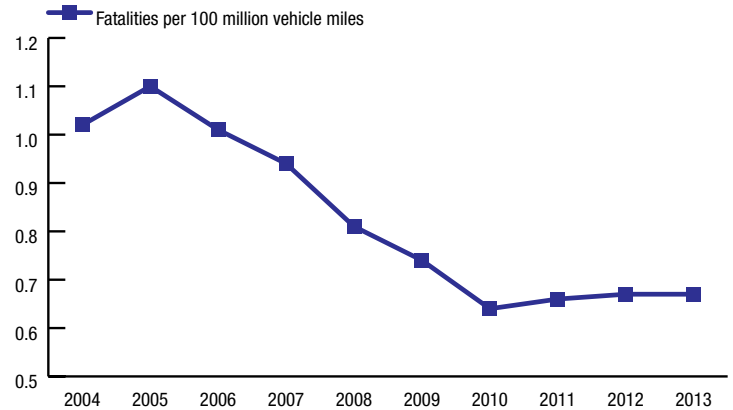
*Between 2012 and 2013, bicycle and pedestrian deaths on the state's highways have increased.*

Since 1921, 184 Caltrans employees have been killed on the job. One of the biggest hazards to Caltrans workers and motorists alike is from drivers who do not exercise caution while driving in highway work zones. Caltrans' safety campaigns, such as its nationally recognized "Be Work Zone Alert," which feature the children of Caltrans employees, are a reminder that can also protect motorists. In 2013, 5,874 collisions happened in state highway work zones. Of those, 47 were fatal collisions, killing 51 people, all who were highway travelers.

## Fatal Collisions in Work Zones



## Fatalities Per 100M Vehicles Miles Traveled



*Fatal collisions in work zones and deaths from those collisions have been rising since 2011. Fatal collisions can result in more than one death.*

Caltrans is working to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway system for all users. Future issues of *The Mile Marker* will provide updates on research findings and Caltrans' strategies to improve safety for people who choose to use active transportation.

*Source: Division of Research, Innovation and System Information, Division of Traffic Operations*

In 2014, Caltrans reported that the department did not lose any highway workers while on the job. But sadly, in 2015, Oscar Vargas, a Caltrans transportation civil engineer who worked in the San Diego area was killed when he lost control of his Caltrans work truck along Interstate 8 near Imperial County on July 14, 2015.

